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Item 100 (a) of the preliminary list*

IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly decided to establish, under its auspices, an International Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, taking into account proposals that might be submitted by States participating in the negotiating process, with a view to finalizing such a convention by June 1994. The Assembly also decided that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee should be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

3. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee held its organizational session in New York from 26 to 29 January 1993. The report of the Committee on that session is contained in document A/AC.241/4.

4. The first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee was held at Nairobi from 24 May to 3 June 1993. The Secretary-General has the honour to submit to the Assembly, annexed to the present note, the report on that session.

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* A/48/50.

ANNEX

Report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, on its first session

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I. INTRODUCTION

Opening of the session

1. The first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, was held at Nairobi from 24 May to 3 June 1993. The session was convened in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 entitled "Establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and desertification, particularly in Africa". The Committee held 16 meetings at its first session (1st to 16th).

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Election of officers

2. The Bureau of the Committee and its Working Groups, as elected at the 1st, 5th and 6th meetings of the organizational session, held on 26 and 29 January, and the 1st and 6th meetings, on 24 and 27 May, was as follows:

Chairman: Mr. Bo Kjellén (Sweden)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. René Valéry Mongbe (Benin)
Mr. T. P. Sreenivasan (India)
Mr. José Urrutia (Peru)

Rapporteur: Mr. Sergei N. Morozov (Russian Federation)

Working Group I

Chairman: Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaf (Algeria)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Erwin Ortíz Gandarillas (Bolivia)

Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur:*

Working Group II

Chairman: Mr. Jacques Alliot (France)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Morad-Ali Ardeshiri (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur: Mr. Frederick E. G. Mallya (United Republic of Tanzania)

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* The election of the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur from the Eastern European countries was postponed to a later date.

B. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. At its 1st meeting, on 24 May, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

2. Election of officers.

3. Sharing of technical information and assessments, including the following elements:

   (a) Desertification, drought and the global environment;

   (b) Causes, general extent and consequences of land degradation in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid areas;

   (c) Social and economic dimensions;

   (d) Pattern of bilateral and multilateral assistance programmes;

   (e) Experiences with international, regional, subregional and national programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in developed countries;

   (f) Experiences of developed countries;

   (g) Some possible elements of a new strategy to promote sustainable development in countries experiencing drought and desertification.

4. Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa.

5. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds:

   (a) Special Voluntary Fund to support the participation of developing countries affected by drought and desertification, particularly the least developed countries;

   (b) Trust fund for the negotiating process.

6. Adoption of the provisional agenda for the second session.

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its first session.

C. Attendance

4. Representatives of the following States attended the session: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark,

Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Holy See, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Yemen and Zambia.

5. The following United Nations offices and organs were represented: Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climatic Change, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, Economic Commission for Africa, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office.

6. The following specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, World Meteorological Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

7. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation, Arab Maghreb Union, Commission of the European Communities, Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development, International Development Research Centre, International Organization for Migration, Organization of African Unity (OAU), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILLS), Sahara and Sahel Observatory and World Conservation Union.

8. The following other organization, having received a standing invitation to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly, participated as an observer: Palestine.

9. The following national liberation movement was represented: African National Congress.

10. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Africa Harvest Mission, African Centre for Technology Studies, Association des Bacheliers pour l'Emploi et le Développement, Association Tunisienne Pour la Protection de la Nature et de l'Environnement (ATPNE), Australian Conservation Foundation, Centre de Recherche et d'information pour le Développement (CRID), Centre for Science and Environment, Comité Nacional Pro Defensa de la Fauna y Flora, CONGAC - Confédération des ONG d'Environnement et Développement de l'Afrique Centrale, Consejo Andino de Manejo Ecológico, Council For Human Ecology-Kenya (CHEK), Egerton University, Enda Inter-Arabe, Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI), Environmental Monitoring Group, Environnement et Développement du Tiers-Monde (ENDA-TM), Favdo - Forum for African Voluntary Development Organizations, Friends World Committee for Consultation (QUAKERS), Fundación Rio Parnaiba, Green Earth Organization (GEO), Human Settlements of Zambia (HUZA), Instituto de Pre-Historia, Antropologia e Ecologia (IPHAE), International Centre for Research in Agroforestry, International Confederation

of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), International Federation of University Women (IFUW), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), KENGO - Kenya Energy and Environment Organizations, Kenya Consumers' Organization, Platform for Sustainable Development , Proterra, Réseau Africain pour le Développement (RADEV), Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Sahabat Alam Malaysia - Friends of the Earth, Sahel Défis: Développement Environnement Formation Insertion Sociale, School Dropout Services, Solagral, Southern African Regional Commission for the Conservation and Utilisation of the Soil (SARCCUS), Stockholm Environment Institute, Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), Third World Academy of Sciences, Third World Network, Wildlife Clubs of Kenya, World Conservation Union, (IUCN), World Organization of the Scout Movement - Africa Regional Office Switzerland, World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA), Worldview International Foundation - Kenya, ZERO.

D. Documentation

11. The documents before the Committee at its first session are listed in appendix I below.

III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

12. At its 4th meeting, on 26 May, the Committee, bearing in mind paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 47/188 and rule 49 of the rules of procedure of the Committee (A/AC.241/3), decided to approve the accreditation of the non-governmental organizations listed in document A/AC.241/9 and Add.1 (see appendix II, decision 1/1).

B. Participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the Committee

13. At the same meeting, the Committee, bearing in mind the provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 on the participation of observers in the work of the Committee in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly, decided to accord observer status in its work to the intergovernmental organizations listed in document A/AC.241/L.5 (see appendix II, decision 1/2).

C. Mandates for the Working Groups

14. On 27 May, the Committee had before it a draft proposal submitted by the Chairman (A/AC.234/L.6) entitled "Mandates for the Working Groups", which read as follows:

"The following mandates are proposed in respect of the Working Groups:

"(a) Working Group I is responsible for the elaboration of introductory elements, such as the Preamble, Definitions, Principles, Objectives; as well as the chapter on Global Commitments;

"Working Group II is responsible for the elaboration of the chapters on Institutions and Administrative provisions, including institutional aspects of science, research and data collection; as well as exchange of information and legal provisions in general. The Working Group should also consider any instruments related to the convention; a/

"(b) To ensure day-to-day compatibility and coordination between the two Working Groups, the Chairman of one Working Group participates ex officio in the Bureau of the other Working Group;

"(c) The Working Groups may establish ad hoc subgroups as appropriate to consider specific issues arising in the course of the negotiations."

"a/ It is recalled that General Assembly resolution 47/188, reflected in the official name of the Negotiating Committee the expression 'particularly in Africa', indicating that priority action should be taken in Africa. An instrument on Africa, such as an annex which would form an integral part of the convention, should therefore be negotiated once the main structure of the convention has been defined. Similar instruments for other regions will be negotiated later.

15. On 2 June, the Committee had before it a draft resolution submitted by the Chairman (A/AC.241/L.10) entitled "Mandates for the Working Groups", which was submitted following comments by delegations on the draft proposal contained in document A/AC.241/L.6. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

"Recognizing that the problems related to desertification are complex and wide-ranging and that the sections of Agenda 21 concerning social and economic dimensions, strengthening the role of major groups, and means of implementation, provide an essential background to the work of the Committee,

"Recognizing also that section 2 of Agenda 21 on conservation and management of resources for development, and in particular chapter 12, on combating desertification and drought, will have a direct impact on the formulation of the convention,

"Mindful of the fact that these different elements have to be considered in the light of General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1988, which states that the negotiation should be concluded by June 1994,

"Recognizing that the short time available for the negotiation requires simple and flexible mandates for the two Working Groups,

"1. Decides that the Working Groups will have the following mandates, it being understood that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee may amend this decision, if the management of the negotiations so requires:

"(a) Working Group I is responsible for the elaboration of such provisions as the preamble, principles, objectives and commitments; including financial arrangements and capacity-building;

"(b) Working Group II is responsible for the elaboration of such provisions as institutional, administrative, technological and scientific aspects; research, data collection and exchange of information; procedural arrangements and other legal provisions such as any instruments related to the convention;

"(c) General Assembly resolution 47/188, and the official name of the Negotiating Committee, containing the expression 'particularly in Africa', indicate that priority action should be taken in Africa. An instrument on Africa should therefore be negotiated once the main structure of the convention has been defined, and adopted as an integral part of the convention. Similar instruments for other regions will be negotiated successively as soon as possible;

"2. Decides further that,

"(a) To ensure day-to-day compatibility and coordination between the two Working Groups, the Chairman of one Working Group shall participate ex officio in the Bureau of the other Working Group;

"(b) The Plenary and the two Working Groups shall organize their work in such a way that not more than two meetings are held within the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at the same time;

"(c) The two Working Groups should, if possible, complete their work by March 1994, during the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in Geneva, in order to allow the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, at its fifth session, to finalize negotiations on the basis of a consolidated text."

16. At its 16th meeting on 3 June, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/AC.241/L.10/Rev.1), which was submitted by the Chairman as a result of extensive consultations on draft resolution A/AC.241/L.10.

17. At the same meeting, the Chairman further orally revised draft resolution A/AC.241/L.10/Rev.1 as follows:

(a) A new preambular paragraph was inserted after the second preambular paragraph to read as follows:

"Recognizing further that desertification affects all continents and that concrete measures have to be taken in all regions within the framework of this convention; such action has to be taken in a prompt and efficient manner, and the negotiation should be organized in a way which would ensure this."

(b) In the third preambular paragraph, the word "negotiation" was replaced by the word "convention".

18. Also at the same meeting, broad support was expressed for the draft resolution contained in document A/AC.241/L.10/Rev.1, as orally revised. Some delegations, however, felt that their instructions did not permit them to accept the text, which therefore could not be adopted formally by the Committee. Consultations would therefore be undertaken in the intersessional period with a view to adopting the resolution without delay when the Committee reconvenes in September.

19. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to transmit draft resolution A/AC.241/L.10/Rev.1, as orally revised, to the next session for consideration (see appendix II, decision 1/3).

20. In view of the support expressed for the text, and considering in particular the fact that no opposition had been expressed to the proposed division of work between the Working Groups, the Chairman concluded that the Secretariat should prepare the second session in a way which would enable the two Working Groups to begin their consideration of the documentation already prepared for them at the beginning of the session, in order to permit prompt and efficient conduct of the negotiations.

IV. SHARING OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENTS

21. At its 1st to 9th meetings, from 24 to 28 May 1993, the Committee considered agenda item 3 entitled "Sharing of technical information and assessments". For its discussion of the item, the Committee had before it a note by the secretariat on sharing of technical information and assessments (A/AC.241/6).

22. At the 10th meeting, on 31 May, the Chairman, in summarizing the discussion on the item, stressed the innovative and fascinating character of the information segment, which provided the Committee with an opportunity to measure the global and horizontal characteristics of the drylands problem by setting them in a broader development perspective, underlining that widespread poverty in itself contributes to worsen the desertification problem while reducing the possibilities for efficient drought preparedness. Poverty linked to rapid growth of population breeds important migratory movements, sometimes in an organized way, but far too often leading to people being turned into environmental refugees.

23. Experiences of both developed and developing countries have provided insight into the magnitude of the problems and pointed out some of the practical solutions. The value of exchange of experiences among countries has been highlighted.

V. ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESFRTIFICATION IN COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

24. At its 10th to 14th meetings, from 21 May to 2 June 1993, the Committee held a general discussion on agenda item 4 entitled "Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa". For its discussion of the item, the Committee had before it a note by the secretariat on the format and possible elements of the convention (A/AC.241/7).

25. At the 15th meeting on 2 June, the Chairman, in summarizing the discussion, noted that there was a general agreement with the thrust of the secretariat analysis on the format of the convehtion.

26. He also underlined that most speakers stressed the importance of building on Agenda 21 in crafting various elements of the convention. This would include not only chapter 12, dealing specifically with drought and desertification, but other chapters as well. Several delegations also mentioned the significance of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. a/

27. He stressed that a strong consensus emerged on an innovative bottoms-up approach where commitments at national, regional and international levels reinforced local action. Delegations also generally accepted the importance of negotiating a truly global convention which appropriately incorporates national and subregional action programmes and gives priority to Africa.

28. The Chairman also underlined that delegations generally saw the need to agree early on about a "fast start" to the convention. For this purpose, the Committee will probably ask the General Assembly to provide this fall an extended mandate allowing intensive work in the period between signature and ratification of the convention.

Action taken by the Committee

29. At its 16th meeting, on 3 June, the Committee had before it a draft decision submitted by the Chairman (A/AC.241/L.9) entitled "Outline of conclusions on agenda item 4".

30. At the same meeting, the representative of Switzerland proposed that paragraph 3 of the draft decision, which read as follows:

> "Invites the secretariat to make a compilation of these proposals in a background negotiating document to be submitted to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its second session by 15 August 1993."

be replaced by the following:

> "Requests the secretariat to make a compilation of these proposals in a background negotiating document to be submitted to Governments by

15 August 1993 for consideration by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its second session."

31. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/AC.241/L.9 as orally amended (see appendix II, decision 1/4).

VI. REVIEW OF THE SITUATION AS REGARDS EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS

32. At its 15th meeting, on 2 June 1993, the Committee considered agenda item 5 entitled "Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds". For its discussion of the item, the Committee had before it a note by the secretariat on the review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds (A/AC.241/8 and Add.1-3).

33. The Executive Secretary made an opening statement in which he presented a summary of the voluntary contributions made to both the Special Voluntary Fund for Developing Countries Participation and the Trust Fund for Preparatory Activities. The Committee had before it document A/AC.241/8/Add.1 and 2, on the state of the extrabudgetary resources.

34. During the discussion, Australia pledged a contribution of $A 50,000. Other delegations confirmed their intention to contribute to the funds in due time.

35. The Executive Secretary and the Chairman of the Committee urged Member States who pledged contributions and other potential donors to contribute effectively to the funds so as to enable the Secretariat to undertake the activities envisaged in an efficient and timely way.

VII. ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND SESSION

36. At its 16th meeting, on 3 June, the Committee decided to approve the draft provisional agenda for its second session, as contained in document A/AC.234/L.8 (see appendix II, decision 1/5).

VIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS FIRST SESSION

37. At its 16th meeting, on 3 June, the Committee adopted the draft report on its first session (A/AC.241/L.7).

Notes

a/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution I, annex I.

APPENDIX I

List of documents before the Committee at its first session

Document symbol	Agenda item	Title or description
A/AC.241/5	1	Provisional agenda for the first session
A/AC.241/6	3	Note by the secretariat on sharing of technical information and assessments
A/AC.241/7	4	Note by the secretariat on the format and possible elements of the convention
A/AC.241/8 and Add.1-3	5	Note by the secretariat on the review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/9 and Add.1	1	List of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation
A/AC.241/L.5	1	Note by the secretariat on the participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the Committee
A/AC.241/L.6	1	Proposal submitted by the Chairman on the mandates for the Working Groups
A/AC.241/L.7	7	Draft report of the Committee on its first session
A/AC.241/L.8	6	Draft provisional agenda for the second session
A/AC.241/L.9	4	Proposal by the Chairman containing an outline of conclusions on agenda item 4
A/AC.241/L.10 and Rev.1	1	Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman on the basis of the draft proposal contained in document A/AC.241/L.6
A/AC.241/CRP.1	3 and 4	Statement by the Chairman of the Committee
A/AC.241/CRP.2	4	Statement by the Executive Secretary of the Committee

APPENDIX II

Decisions adopted by the Committee at its first session

Decision 1/1

Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

1. At it 4th meeting, on 26 May, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, bearing in mind paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 and rule 49 of the rules of procedure of the Committee (A/AC.241/3), decided to approve the accreditation of the following non-governmental organizations:

Action for Development (AFORD)
Actions pour le Développement Rural Integre
Africa Harvest Mission
African Association for Literacy and Adult Education
African Association of Development Education
African Centre for Technology Studies
African Forum for Mathematical Ecology
Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization
All Africa Students Union
All Pakistan Youth Federation
Amazon India
Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE)
Asociación Ecologista de Defensa de la Naturaleza (AEDENAT)
Asociación Kunas Unidos Por Nabguana (KUNA)
Association des Bacheliers pour l'Emploi et le Développement
Association de Coopération et de Recherches
Association des Jeunes Pour l'Education et le Développement (AJED)
Association des Volontaires pour le Développement
Association For Sarva Seva Farms (ASSEFA)
Association Guinée pour la Promotion des energies renouvable (AGUIPER)
Association Internationale Six "S"
Association Jeunesse Populaire
Association Nationale d'Action Rurale
Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (TANGO)
Association of Women in Development Experts (AWIDE)
Association Orukutuku
Association pour la Sauvegarde de l'Environnement et le Développement (ASED)
Association pour la Sauvegarde du Partimoine Martiniquais
Association Tunisienne Pour la Protection de la Nature et de l'Environnement (ATPNE)
Australian Conservation Foundation
Australian Council for Overseas Aid
Bombay Natural History Society
Botswana Technology Centre
Carrefour Sahel
Centre de Recherche et d'Information pour le Développement (CRID)
Centre de Suivi Ecologique
Centre for Action-Oriented Research on African Development (CARAD)

Centre for Science and Environment
Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement Rural (CEDER)
Cercle International pour la promotion de la Creation (CIPCRE)
Centro de Investigación y Difusión Ecológica y Cultural de Otavalo (CIDECO)
Christian Aid
Christian Service Committee of the Churches in Malawi
Club des Prospecteurs de l'Or Vert (CLUPOV)
Comite Nacional Pro Defensa de la Fauna y Flora
Confédération des ONG d'Environnement et de Développement de l'Afrique Centrale (CONGAC)
Conseil des Organisations Non-Gouvernementales d'Appui au Développement (CONGAD)
Consejo Andino de Manejo Ecológico
Coordination in Development, Inc. (CODEL)
Council for Human Ecology-Kenya (CHEK)
Country Women Association of Nigeria
DESCO/Centre de Estudios y Promocion del Desarrollo
Detmac Association
Earthaction Network
Egerton University Emmaus International Association
Enda Inter-Arabe
Environment and Development Society of Ethiopia (LEM)
Environment Liaison Centre International
Environment Protection and Development Centre
Environment Society of Chandigarh
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Monitoring Group
Environmentalist Society
Environnement et Développement du Tiers-Monde (ENDA-TM)
Federation des Association du Fouta pour le Développement (FAFD)
Forum for African Voluntary Development Organizations (FAVDO)
Forum Maghrébin pour l'Environnement et le Développement
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)/Quakers
Fundación Alma
Fundación Ecologica "Mazan"
Fundación Hernandiana
Fundación Pro-Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta
Fundación Rio Parnaiba
Fundación San Gregorio de Protoviejo
Gandhivan
Gaumina
Groupement des Retraités Educateurs sans Frontières
Grupo de Estudios Ambientales A.C.
Henry Doubleday Research Association
Human Settlements of Zambia (HUZA)
Indian Committee of Youth Organisations (ICYO)
India Community Development Service Society
Institut Africain pour le Développement Economique et Social (INADES-Formation)
Institut de Recherche sur l'Environnement (IREC)
Institute for Development Anthropology
Instituto de Pre-Historia, Antropologia e Ecologia (IPHAE)
Intermediate Technology - Kenya
International Centre for Research in Agroforestry
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)

International Federation of University Women (IFUW)
International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
International Soil Reference and Information Centre (ISRIC)
International Youth and Student Movement for the UN (ISMUM)
Jagruthi Society
Jana Seva Parisad
Karnataka Welfare Society (KWALITY)
Kenya Consumers' Organization
Kenya Energy and Environment Organizations (KENGO)
Kenya Volunteer Development Services
Kerala Sastra Sahithya Parishad
Legal Rights and Natural Resources Centre Inc.
Les Amis de la Terre-Togo
Liga de Defensa del Medio Ambiente (LIDEMA)
Mauritius Council of Social Service
Natural Resources Protection Group (NARP)
Novib, Netherlands Organizations for International Development Cooperation
Office Africain pour le Développement et la Coopération
OXFAM
Peace Trust
Pentecost Social Services
Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement
Platform for Sustainable Development (ex Alliance for Sustainable Development)
Port Loko United Nations Students Association/Port Loko
Promo-femmes/Développement Sport
Protection del Medio Ambiente Tarija (PROMETA)
Proterra
Public Campaign on Environment and Development
Recherche, Appui et Formation aux Initiatives d'Auto-développement
Réseau Africain pour le Développement (RADEV)
Réseau Africain pour le Développement Integré (RADI)
Réseau d'Education pour le Développement en Cooperation
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Royal Geographical Society
Rural Centre for Human Interests
Rural Development Foundation of Pakistan
SOS-SAHEL INTERNATIONAL
Sahabat Alam Malaysia - Friends of the Earth (Malaysia)
Sahel Defis: Développement Environnement Formation Insertion Sociale
School Dropout Services
Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre
Société Algerienne pour le droit de l'environnement
Society for Conservation and Protection of Environment (SCOPE)
Society for Rural Development (Gram Bharati Samiti)
Solagral
Solidarity Canada Sahel
Southern African Regional Commission for the Conservation and Utilisation of the Soil (SARCCUS)
Southern Networks for Environment and Development
Sri Lanka Environment Journalists Forum
Stockholm Environment Institute
Sudanese Environment and Development Organization

Sudanese Environment Conservation Society (SECS)
Sudanese Red Crescent (SRC)
Sustainable Development Policy Institute
Sunyani Diocesan Development Office
Tanzania Environmental Society (TESO)
Tanzania Tree Planting Foundation
Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI)
Terre des Hommes, France
Third World Academy of Science (TWAS)
Third World Network
Thusano Lefatsheng
Tree and Energy Conservation Programme (TRENCOP)
Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute
Trust for Transitional Action To Progress (TTAP)
Uganda Women Tree Planting Movement
United Socio-Economic Development and Research Programme
United Nations of Youth
Vredeseilanden
West and Central African Soil Science Association
Wildlife Clubs of Kenya
Wildlife Clubs of Uganda
Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)
World Conservation Union, (IUCN)
World Organization of the Scout Movement - Africa Regional Office
World Vision International
World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA)
Worldview International Foundation - Kenya
Youth for Development and Cooperation (YDC)
ZERO

Decision 1/2

Participation of observers

2. At its 4th meeting, on 26 May, the Committee, bearing in mind the provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 on the participation of observers in the work of the Committee in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly, decided to accord observer status in its work to the following intergovernmental organizations:

Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)

Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD)

Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILLS)

Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)

Southern African Development Conference (SADC)

Decision 1/3

Mandates for the Working Groups

3. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee decides to transmit the following draft resolution to its second session for consideration:

"Mandates for the Working Groups

"The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

"Recognizing that the problems related to desertification are complex and wide-ranging and that the sections of Agenda 21 a/ concerning social and economic dimensions, strengthening the role of major groups, and means of implementation, provide an essential background to the work of the Committee,

"Recognizing also that section 2 of Agenda 21 on conservation and management of resources for development, and in particular chapter 12, on combating desertification and drought, will have a direct impact on the formulation of the Convention,

"Recognizing also that desertification affects all continents and that concrete measures have to be taken in all regions within the framework of this convention; such action has to be taken in a prompt and efficient manner and the negotiation should be organized in a way which would ensure this.

"Mindful of the fact that these different elements have to be considered in the light of General Assembly resolution 47/188, which states that the convention should be concluded by June 1994,

"Recognizing that the short time available for the negotiation requires simple and flexible mandates for the two Working Groups,

"1. Decides that the Working Groups will have the following mandates, it being understood that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee may amend this decision, if the management of the negotiations so requires:

"(a) Working Group I is responsible for the elaboration of such provisions as the preamble, principles, objectives and commitments; including financial arrangements and capacity-building;

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a/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

"(b) Working Group II is responsible for the elaboration of such provisions as institutional, administrative, technological and scientific aspects; research, data collection and exchange of information; procedural arrangements and other legal provisions such as any instruments related to the convention;

"(c) General Assembly resolution 47/188, and the official name of the Negotiating Committee, containing the expression 'particularly in Africa', indicate that priority action should be taken in Africa. An instrument on Africa should therefore be negotiated once the main structure of the convention has been defined, and adopted as an integral part of the convention. Similar instruments for other regions will be negotiated without delay, according to modalities to be decided by the Committee at its second session;

"2. Decides further that,

"(a) To ensure day-to-day compatibility and coordination between the two Working Groups, the Chairman of one Working Group shall participate ex officio in the Bureau of the other Working Group;

"(b) The Plenary and the two Working Groups shall organize their work in such a way that not more than two meetings are held within the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at the same time;

"(c) The two Working Groups should, if possible, complete their work by March 1994, during the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at Geneva, in order to allow the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, at its fifth session, to finalize negotiations on the basis of a consolidated text."

Decision 1/4

Outline of conclusions on agenda item 4

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

1. Notes the note by the secretariat on the format and possible elements of the convention b/ and considers that the document and the comments that were made during the discussion should give general guidance to the Chairman and the secretariat in preparing the next sessions of the Committee.

2. Encourages Governments to make written submissions on the contents of the Convention including detailed drafting proposals, by 1 July 1993.

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b/ A/AC.241/7.

3. Requests the secretariat to make a compilation of these proposals in a background negotiating document to be submitted to Governments by 15 August 1993 for consideration by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its second session.

Decision 1/5

At its 16th meeting, on 3 June, the Committee approved the following provisional agenda for its second session:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

2. Election of officers.

3. Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa.

4. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds:

(a) Special Voluntary Fund to support the participation of developing countries affected by drought and desertification, particularly the least developed countries;

(b) Trust fund for the negotiating process.

5. Adoption of the provisional agenda for the third session.

6. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its second session.